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Culpepper Hdw. Co.

17 No. Water Street

THE SOFTEST JOB (?). BY RALPR POOL

The City Manager has come, and verily we fear that he will have to hustle some to get things going here. With duties that he must perform to earn his daily stew he scarce can keep his elbows warm, there are so very few. Ah. yes he has a perfect snap, this City Manager; the softest job upon the map, of all that ever were.

Just at the start the only things that he will likely find to keep himself in trim, by jings, and exercise his mind, will be to cover every ditch that passes through the town, or else to sterilize 'em, which should keep the skeeters down. And, too, he soon will take a slant at this vile stuff we drink. this product of our water plant that keeps us on the blink. He will eradicate the bugs that swim about in it, the germs, tadpoles and strange, weird slugs that make us throw a fit.

Then soon he will investigate our brand of city light, which some declare is out of date because it's not too bright; In time perhaps he will dispel the deep and murky gloom the shades of night spread forth so well the town seems like a tomb, with here and there the tiny gleam of one lone feeble light, like funeral taper it would seem, to fill one with affright.

The Market House is on his hands, to fill with butchers glad; and while the Sunday Blue Law stands, our streets go to the bad. Our City finances will take a wee bit of his time, while peanut politicians make him want to swear in rhyme.

In truth he has a perfect cinch, the softest kind of job; he scarce will have to budge an inch to earn his yearly gob.

HERBERT SMITH TELLS OF LOSING HIS MASK

This Newspaper Came Near Having a Gold Service Star When Herbert Once Grew Lax

Herbert H. Smith, formerly of the his. shop force of THE INDEPENDENT But here he was in pitch darkness

his gas mask in one of the trucks and been in the trench fifteen minutes when the awful shriek of the siren sounded a warning that the Germans were sending over gas. Smith knew what that meant. He had seen mer gassed and he didn't want any of it ir

has just returned from overseas after in a strange locality, in water and mud 13 months service. He was with the up to his knees, the mustard gas com-Wildcat Division. He saw real fight- ing over and his gas mask in a truck ing between Verdun and Metz, was laid somewhere 50 yards away. He didn't out for several weeks with Influenza exactly remember in what direction he had several love affairs in France and had left that truck, but he went up and Belgium, learned to appreciate home out of that trench and scrambled thru cooking and came thru with no other mud in the direction he thought he scratch than that made by the doctors ought to go. He hadn't gone 20 feet who vaccinated him against small pox when the hip boots he was wearing Smith says only once did he get near stuck in the mud. With a mighty enough to the parapets of heaven to tug he pulled out of the boots and left look over and glimpse the lustre of them behind. By the help of God and angels' wings. It was at Camp St. great good luck he located that truck Airy, on the road between Metz and with the unerring instinct of a bee reordun in October when the Germans turning to its hive. He found his mask

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3 Daws

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J. P. WILSON, 116 Dock St. JAMES SAWYERS & CO., 222 Dock St. J. L. CULVER, 114 Dock St.

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